

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CU-04 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 EA-10  
NEA-10 /122 W

-----092667 302125Z /75

R 301646Z JAN 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9284  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN 0288

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, UR  
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING: SOVIET VIEWS

1. AT HIS INVITATION, MISOFF MET WITH USSR THIRD COMMITTEE  
REP (SERGEY SMIRNOV), JANUARY 27, WHO EVEN THOUGH HE WILL NOT  
BE ATTENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MEETING IS  
MAKING THE ROUNDS OF AT LEAST THE WEO DELEGATES TO PUMP THEM  
FOR INFORMATION. HE REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD  
BE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, AND DID NOT AT THIS MOMENT HAVE ANY  
PARTICULAR INITIATIVES (BUT SEE PARA 5 BELOW).

2. WHEN ASKED WHAT HAPPENED AT THE HAVANA MEETING (REFTEL) TO  
PLAN STRATEGY FOR THE HRC FOR THE EASTERN GROUP, HE SAID MOST  
OF THE TIME WAS SPENT IN ANALYZING THE JUST COMPLETED THIRD  
COMMITTEE MEETING, AND "ESPECIALLY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VERY  
ACTIVE US DELEGATION." HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A DISCUSSION  
WHAT TO DO ABOUT 32/130 (L.17), BUT SINCE THE GROUP WAS OF A  
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DIVIDED MIND, NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED. HE ALSO SAID THAT AS  
OF THE FIRST OF JANUARY MIGUEL ALFONSO WOULD NOT BE  
ATTENDING THE HRC. (THIS CONTRADICTS WHAT CUBAN PERM  
REP ALARCON TOLD MISOFFS THE LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER IN  
NYC.) COMMENT. IF USNIT HAVANA COULD FIND OUT FOR USUN  
WHO WILL REPRESENT CUBA AT GENEVA, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. ORDER OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION. SMIRNOV (AFTER HEARING MISOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT THE ELABORATION OF THE DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE AND THE CONVENTION ON TORTURE OUGHT TO BE HANDLED IN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS THAT DO NOT MEET AT TIMES AT WHICH THE PLENARY CAN MEET) COMMENTED THAT EVEN THOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT BASICALLY FAVORED THE ABOLITION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION, AS LONG AS IT IS MAINTAINED IT SHOULD CHANGE ITS MEETING DATE TO JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, WITH THE HRC MEETING SOON AFTERWARDS, BUT BEFORE SPRING ECOSOC WHICH SHOULD MEET IN MAY OR JUNE. THIS IS IN ORDER TO HAVE THE PROPER SEQUENCE OF REFERRAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS. SMIRNOV ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE HRC IS BURDENED WITH AN "UNREALISTIC AGENDA," AND MANY OF THE ITEMS SHOULD BE DROPPED OR COMBINED. HE ASKED IF THE US HAD ANY OPINION ON THE ARGENTINE PLAN (SINCE DROPPED BY THEM, HE SAYS) TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE HRC. SINCE BOTH THE WEOS AND THE EASTERN GROUP WOULD LOSE PROPORTIONALLY IF THE HRC WERE INCREASED TO 47, HE SAID HE ASSUMED WE WOULD BOTH BE AGAINST SUCH AN INCREASE. HE OFFERED NO OPINION ON THE POSSIBILITY OR WISDOM OF A RESUMED OR SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HRC TO CONSIDER, PERHAPS, 32/130, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED INFORMALLY BY THE IRANIANS AND SOME WEOS.

4. THE QUESTION OF 32/130. SMIRNOV BELIEVES THE WORKING GROUP SET UP AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE HRC TO MEET THIS  
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TIME ON "EXISTING PROGRAMS" OF THE UN IN HUMAN RIGHTS OUGHT TO BE ASKED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT SHORTENING AND CONSOLIDATING THE AGENDA OF THE HRC, AND POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION AND ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATION AMONG THE VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN THAT HAVE GROWN UP IN RECENT YEARS. HE MENTIONED THE OVERLAP AMONG THE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL, THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE SUB-COMMISSION, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, ECOSOC, AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE HRC SHOULD PICK UP COMMITTEE II RESOLUTION 32/197 (OF THE LAST GA) AS A MANDATE ALONG WITH 32/130, AND THAT ECOSOC SHOULD CONTINUE TO COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS RATHER THAN SETTING UP A NEW BODY TO DO SO.

6. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE WOULD FAVOR TO REPLACE THE SUB-COMMISSION, HE SAID HE HAD SENT A PLAN FOR A SUBSTITUTE ORGANIZATION TO MOSCOW BUT THAT HE COULDN'T DISCUSS IT UNTIL MOSCOW HAD APPROVED IT. HE SAID UNDER ITEM 20 (THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION) IT SHOULD BE CRITICIZED FOR "LAZINESS, AND THE WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY."

6. UGANDA. HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN UGANDA HAD IMPROVED, AND HE WAS NOT SURE THAT THE USSR WOULD THUS VOTE TO SEND AN INVESTIGATIVE GROUP TO UGANDA. AT ANY RATE, HE EMPHASIZED, ANY 1503 PROCEDURE MUST BE DONE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT INVOLVED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN 0288

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

7. 1503 PROCEDURES. WHEN ASKED IF THE USSSR MIGHT VOTE IN FAVOR OF SOME ACTION UNDER 1503 PROCEDURES ON SOME VERY CLEAR CASE, HE ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY, BUT INSISTED THAT SOON IT WILL BE TIME TO ABOLISH 1503. MISOFF NOTED THAT MANY WESTERN POWERS WERE ALSO FRUSTRATED WITH 1503 SINCE DURING ITS SIX YEARS OF LIFE NO EFFECTIVE ACTION HAD YET EMERGED, AND IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO HAVE ALL DEBATES ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE OPEN WHERE AT LEAST PUBLIC OPINION COULD BE BETTER INFORMED. SMIRNOV REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A FAVORITE IDEA OF THE UK BUT IT WOULD BE AGAINST THEIR INTEREST IN THE LONG RUN SINCE "SOMEONE WOULD BRING UP NORTHER IRELAND."

8. HIGH COMMISSIONER. MISOFF TOLD SMIRNOV THAT USG WAS CONSIDERING NOW WHETHER AND HOW THE US MIGHT BRING UP OR SUPPRT AN INITIATIVE AT THE HRC MEETING DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE PROPOSAL AND INCREASE ITS POLITICAL BASE, AND ASKED WOULD THE SOVIETS BE INTERESTED IN

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DISCUSSING SUCH A MODIFIED PROPOSAL WITH THE US, OR THE CO-SPONSORS, SHOULD SUCH EMERGE. HE REPLIED THAT IT CERTAINLY WOULD, ESPECIALLY IF THE MAJOR CONCERN OF THE USSR -- THE FEAR OF THE CREATION OF A "SUPERNATIONAL" POST ABOVE AND INDEPENDENT OF THE SYG -- WERE CONSIDERED. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD BE MORE THAN AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK SHOULD THE US WANT TO DISCUSS SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL AS THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS WITH HIM.

9. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, SMIRNOV INQUIRED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG WOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE US DELEGATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT MOTIVATED THIS QUESTION. THE SOVIETS HAVE IN THE PAST ATTEMPTED TO SECURE PASSAGE AT THE HRC OF RESOLUTIONS CONTAINING BLATANT CONTRADICTIONS TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THEY MAY BE PLANNING A NEW INITIATIVE ALONG THESE LINES AND WISH TO BE ASSURED THAT THE CSCE EXPONENTS WILL NOT BE AROUND. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY MAY BE CONCERNED THAT THE US WOULD ATTEMPT TO CARRY ON THE BELGRADE DIALOGUE IN OTHER FORA AND THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG ON THE US DELEGATION WOULD CONFIRM THIS FEAR.

LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978USUNN00288  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780044-0984  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014